

Minutes
Portage Environmental Board
November 11 2009

7:00 Meeting call to order by William Schwartz, Chair

Attendance: Marty Sepanik, Dan VanPeenan, Sara Wick, Jason Howard, Bill Schwartz, Becca Schramm, and Martha Dahlinger

Staff Present: Chris Barnes

Excused: Denise Clegg, Audrey Wierenga, and Bryce Maurer

Guests: Bill Hughes (KECC), Andy Duffield (KVCC student working on project) and Barbara Duffield (guest of Andy)

Approval of Minutes: Correct spelling of Sara's first name
Scheduled Secretary: Jason Howard

Announcements from Board Members:

- Martha announced the Audubon will meet Nov 23 discussing restoring wetlands.
- Sara had mentioned a sustainability program at WMU on Nov 13.
- Martha has a folder available for any one to review; it contains information on local environmental issues and also contains information on native Michigan plant and growing recommendations. Please see Martha to view information.

Old Business

- Lakeview Park visitor board. Discussion of ideas to use on future boards. We agreed to update the board 4 times a year (once a quarter). The next theme will be on recycling and details of what and where to recycle. This will be completed by Jason Howard. The 2nd Q theme will be the proposed aeration of Austin Lake. Chris Barnes will assist the whole board on gathering information on the Austin Lake Project.
- Youth Advisory Council (YAC) Update (Dan)...Dan attended there meeting and is representing the EB to partner with the YAC on Earth Day activities. The theme for earth day will be Entertainment mixed with education about the environment and especially on local environmental issues. Some proposed activities included tire inflation awareness, cloth grocery bag usage, and general awareness. Dan will keep the board up to date and ensure participation for the Earth Day event. Marty and Jason are assisting with attending the YAC meetings. Marty was going to the Nov 30 meeting at 6:30.
- Rain Garden progress...Chris gave an update on the rain garden at the new water treatment plant. Everything is going well; we are waiting until 2010 to complete the planting of the garden. Chris will keep us up to date.
- PLS Annual report...the EB wants to add awareness markers to the treated spots. This is in-progress and will have more information in the next few months on when we will be installing the signs. We will use sign blanks and the city will assist with ordering and labeling. The Board also approved the letter to the City Council on PLS.

Committee Participation Reports

- Kalamazoo Environmental Concerns Committee report: Bill Hughes from KECC was in attendance and reported that the city/county would look at ramifications to adding Florida to the cities water supply.
- KEHAC...Bill gave an update on the meeting. The prescription drug collection was another success. They are looking to expand this service. Look at the KEHAC web site for more information.
- KEC...Sara gave an update. She is planning to attend a joint meeting on Dec 3 with the

- EHAC and Kalamazoo County Brownfield Authority.

New Business

- Environmental Summary Activity Report – Approved 1st Jason, 2nd Marty.
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Comments:

- Citizens: Bill Hughes, KECC President (see above regarding KECC activities.)
- Sara Wick: Suggested looking at Complete Streets Information. Look at completestreets.org.

Adjourn: 8:45 PM